

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY AND
GLORIA MOLINA

October 23, 2007

Relates to Item #25

Southern California faces a number of critical environmental challenges that the Board of Supervisors must help address. First, the County's beaches, which form one of our greatest natural amenities, face an ongoing challenge of unhealthy water quality stemming—at least in part—from urban storm water runoff. Second, the State faces energy crises every summer and the nation as a whole is too reliant on expensive and heavily polluting fossil fuels. Further, our region is in the middle of one of the driest years in recorded history and is now threatened with additional reductions in our imported water supply as a result of judicial actions in northern California. Together, these environmental hazards not only necessitate action by the Board of Supervisors as a public policy mandate, the consequences of not proactively taking measures to improve energy efficiency, reduce stormwater pollution, and conserve water could have profoundly negative economic, fiscal, and regulatory requirements on this County.

At the request of the Board of Supervisors, the Departments of Public Works, Regional Planning, County Counsel, and Internal Services have therefore developed a comprehensive sustainability report accounting for the important steps that the County

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| YAROSLAVSKY | _____ |

has already taken to address these environmental problems. Their report additionally provides policy recommendations to develop green building and Low-Impact Development (LID) standards for all unincorporated areas of the County and, in the case of LID, for new public works projects undertaken by the County.

While the LID recommendations contained in the report are general, the County should consider a menu-based approach (similar to that adopted for many green building standards) in developing a LID requirement for private development. This could encourage property owners and builders to choose the most cost-effective and site-appropriate LID mechanisms for any given development project. At the same time, the County should also carefully consider how new LID standards would be applied to urban infill or redevelopment projects in such a way as to promote good urban design and encourage appropriate residential densities in urbanized areas of the County.

With these policy considerations in mind, the County should continue its past efforts to address these critical environmental issues and adopt the staff recommendations to develop ordinances that would implement green building and LID best management practices in new developments within the unincorporated County of Los Angeles.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors adopt staff's recommendations with the following modifications:

- 1) Prepare and submit within 90 days ordinances addressing green building and Low-Impact Development standards to the Regional Planning Commission and any other appropriate body that are reflective of the staff recommendations contained in today's report as well as the Board's discussion of this issue;

- 2) In addition to the recommended LID provisions for discretionary projects, add provisions addressing LID requirements for non-discretionary developments in the draft ordinance submitted to the Regional Planning Commission;
- 3) Incorporate LID standards into Public Works Road and Flood Design and Maintenance Manuals as soon as practicable but no later than December 2009;
- 4) Conduct outreach with property owners associations and town councils, building industry representatives, utilities, and environmental groups, prior to submitting the draft ordinance to the Regional Planning Commission;
- 5) Prepare a cost-benefit analysis of the various LID requirements that will be included in the draft ordinance prior to its submittal to the Regional Planning Commission; and,
- 6) In order to address water and energy efficiency measures as a coherent policy action, incorporate the Board's previously requested drought-tolerant landscaping ordinance into the aforementioned draft ordinance that is to be submitted to the Regional Planning Commission within 90 days.

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